

historic address to the House of Commons, he paid tribute to Canada's leadership role in fighting apartheid. Prime Minister Mulroney pledged \$5.85 million to assist returning exiles and released political prisoners through the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and South African churches.

In August, at a summit in Pretoria, the South African government agreed that the obstacles to negotiations — return of exiles, release of political prisoners, review of repressive security legislation — would be removed by April 30, and the ANC agreed to suspend its armed struggle. At the reconvened UN Special Session on Apartheid, Canadian efforts helped obtain a mandate for the UNHCR to assist in the return of South African exiles. In February 1991, President de Klerk announced that the remaining legislative "pillars of apartheid" would be repealed by the end of June 1991.

The London Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting in mid-February, chaired by Mr. Clark, unanimously welcomed the progress being made in South Africa, but agreed not to lift sanctions until the promised reforms were instituted. The \$1.8-million Canadian Dialogue Program supported preparations for constitutional negotiations and encouraged contact among individuals and groups working toward a peaceful transition to a non-racial democratic South Africa.

In its first year of independence, Namibia continued to make encouraging progress in economic development and national reconciliation. Canada pledged \$4 million in aid and began Commonwealth-funded police training assistance.

TRADE WITH AFRICA

In 1990, Canadian exports of goods to Africa increased by 15 percent to \$1.07 billion, while exports of services reached \$200 million. Through the efforts of the Department, Canadian companies were able to maintain their share of the market and to find new trade outlets in Africa.

Exports to Africa originate in all parts of Canada: wood and fish products from the Maritimes; engineering and management services, telecommunications equipment and aircraft from Quebec; locomotives, mining and electrical generating equipment from Ontario; wheat, sulphur and oil and gas equipment from the Prairies; and forest products from British Columbia. Nigeria, Algeria and Morocco were Canada's main African trading partners in 1990. The Export Development Corporation continued to support Canadian exporters operating on the African market.

Under the impetus of the Department, the following industrial associations intensified their trade development initiatives in Africa: the Canadian Exporters' Association, the Canada-Arab Business Council, the Francophone Business Forum, and the new Canada-Nigeria Chamber of Commerce, formed in January 1991.

A team of African Development Bank (ADB) experts gave a series of cross-Canada seminars on obtaining contracts for ADB-funded projects. Canadian companies continued to compete for World Bank and ADB-funded projects valued at \$7 billion.

The Department intensified its marketing efforts in the African oil and gas market. Several Canadian companies are currently pursuing a number of lucrative projects.

Canada's fine reputation, its aid programs and its roles in the Commonwealth and La Francophonie contribute to its trade prospects in Africa.